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International Court of Justice

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25 June
Blume

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

25 June 1946

COMMISSIONER:

Captain Joseph Tubridy

THE S. S.

(THE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1110 HOURS.)

WALTER BLUME, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness ~~xxxxx~~ stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I will speak the pure truth and ~~xxxx~~ will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath.)

Q What is your name?

A Walter Blume.

Q You may sit down.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelckmann, will you please state what you want to prove by this witness?

DR. PELCKMANN: I called the witness, Blume, concerning the organization and development of the Waffen-SS from 1944 to April 1945 under special consideration of the recruiting system. This witness is to continue the statements by von Brill.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

H0981-0003

BY DR. PELCKMANN:

Q Witness, since when are you a member of the SS?

A Since 1940.

Q And how did that come about?

A I was adjutant with the General Inspector in the Main Office of the Order of Police in the Reich Ministry of the Interior. I was First Lieutenant in the Regular Police and was turned over with the same rank to the SS.

Q And since what time did you belong to the Party?

A Since 1940.

Q You have heard concerning what subjects you will be questioned here. Can you tell us for what reason you are capable of giving this information?

A From August 1943 until April 1944 I was 1B in the SS Main Leadership Office. From May 1944 until the capitulation I was 1A in the Organization Branc h of the Main Leadership Office of the SS.

DR. PELCKMANN: I think perhaps that the German words should also be used in the English transcript since I am not sure whether or not the judges of the Tribunal will later on know exactly what is meant by these terms. Therefore if the witness could again repeat the offices that he was working in --

A August 1943 to April 1944 I was 1B in the SS Fuehrungshauptamt (Main Leadership Office of the SS.) From May 1944 until the capitulation I was 1A in the Organisations Abteilung of the SS Fuehrungshauptamt (Organization Branch of the Main Leadership Office of the SS.)

Q Can you give us the number of men that were under the SS Leadership Office, that is in the formations of the Army, in the Reserves, in the SS Schools, and in the SS Home Service, from December 1944 until April 1945?

HO981-0004

A The strength of the Waffen-SS between December 1944 until the capitulation was as follows: There were, first of all, 11 general commands, of which 2 were so-called foreign units and one a so-called Germanic Unit, with a total strength of 15,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. Secondly, there were 18 so-called independent Corps Troops which had a total strength of 10,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. Then there were 40 divisions, of which 14 were so-called foreign units and 6 Germanic units, with a total strength of 430,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. Then there were 7 small foreign groupings of troops and one small Germanic troop with a total strength of 10,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. In addition, fifth, there was a reserve army of the SS, consisting of about 115,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The entire total, therefore, is 580,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. In this number of 580,000 are contained all the men in all the units of the SS between December 1944 and the end of the war and it also contains all the casualties that resulted within these units from December 1944 until April 1945.

Q In these 580,000 are there also the concentration camp guards and concentration camp headquarters troops?

A No, the men from the concentration camp guards and the members of the concentration camp headquarters, are not contained in this number of 580,000.

Q Why are they not included in this number?

A The field units of the SS were, just like the army units, under the direct command of the Army Leadership as far as the Sectors South, West and

H0981-0005

North are concerned, with the exception that the SS troops, for matters of personnel affairs, clothing, and equipment, were under the SS Fuehrungshauptamt or ~~of~~ the SS Main Leadership Office. The Reserve Army of the SS was in every instance under the command of the SS-Fuehrungshauptamt (SS Main Leadership Office.) The concentration camp guard troops and concentration camp headquarters units did not belong to either the field units of the SS nor to the Reserve Army of the SS. The concentration camp guard units were on the same level as the SS, the Armed-SS, and were under the command in all instances of the Economic Main Administration Office Branch DORA.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Does that come under the WVHA?

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: ~~The answer had better come from the witness, please.~~ Dr. Pelckmann

A. That is Wirtschaftverwaltungshauptamt or WVH-Amtsgruppe Dora.

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Q Before you stated that the number of Waffen SS was 580,000. If one wanted to consider the strength of the entire Waffen SS one would have to add the casualties since the beginning of the war?

A In order to say the total number of men that were in the Waffen SS since the beginning of the war, since its origin, one would had to add the total number of casualties since the beginning of the war until December, 1944, to this number of 580,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.

Q How large is that number approximately?

A The number of casualties was not within my scope of work, however, I would judge this number to be between 300,000 and 350,000.

Q Within this number of 580,000 in the Waffen SS, how many of the above were so-called foreign and Germanic, how many were composed of Germans from abroad and how many were Reichs Germans?

A The personnel structure of this number of 580,000 is as follows: 160,000 foreign and Germanic; 160,000 from Germans abroad and 260,000 actual Germans.

Q /~~How~~ How many members of the air corps, the navy, the army and of the police that were drafted or later transferred into the SS, in other words how large was the number of persons in these groups that were taken into the SS involuntarily?

A In 1944 and 1945, as far as I know, 125,000 Germans were transferred into the SS from the army, the navy, the air corps and the police, that is they were transferred without volunteering for this branch. I want to point

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out especially in this case, I am talking of actual Germans. I want to point out, as I said speaking of Germans, that between December, 1944 and the end of the war, there was about a total of 260,000 Germans in the SS. These numbers should give you a very good idea to what extent persons were drafted and did not go into the Waffen SS voluntarily, especially toward the end of the war. I do not know how many Volksdeutsche or Germans abroad were drafted by the reserve office of the SS in that period.

Q Do you know the number of Germans that were drafted by the recruiting office or the reserve office for the SS?

A No, I cannot give you any figures concerning this.

Q Do you know how the men that were in the so-called Einsatzkommand or Einsatzgruppen were drafted into these units?

A No, I do not know. I heard of these Einsatzgruppen for the first time from the statements of Ohlendorf. I only also heard that members of the Waffen SS were supposed to have participated in these Einsatzgruppen. I want to state in that connection that the field units had to report to me monthly on their technical organization, also on the strength of their materials of equipment and the number of men. These Einsatzgruppen, mentioned by Ohlendorf, did not report to the SS Fuehrungshauptamt and therefore I did not know of their existance.

Q No further questions.

H0981-0008

CROSS EXAMINATION.

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q I want to get the make-up of the 580,000 men clearly. Am I right in thinking that includes the strength of the Waffen SS at December, 1944 and reinforcements from December, 1944 until April, 1945?

A Yes - that is correct.

Q And it includes any of those men who happened to become casualties during that time?

A Yes - that is correct.

Q Can you tell me what the strength was in December, 1944. I want the two figures if you can give them, the strength in December, 1944 and the reinforcements between December, 1944 and April, 1945?

A The number of men in the SS at the time around December was between 500,000 and 525,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. I want to point out that this is just an estimate.

Q So that the recruits from December, 1944 until April, 1945 will be 60,000 to 80,000, is that correct?

A I cannot give you the exact figures as to how many men entered the SS after this date.

~~Qxxxxxxxxx~~ COLONEL JONES: I think it would be much easier if we would have the interpretor give sentence by sentence instead of waiting and letting the witness go on to great length.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: We will ~~so instruct~~ the interpretor instruct the witness to that effect.

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H0981-0009

BY COLONEL JONES:

A I want to point out that after December, 1944 it was extremely hard to find out the number of men in the SS and get the exact report. For instance, after April, 1945 due to the communication difficulties, it was impossible to receive exact strength reports from the units and I was forced to go back to the last strength report that I had received.

Q You did tell us that the total in April of 1945 was 580,000.

A Yes, that is correct, but I do want to point out that in this number, 580,000 also were the casualties between December, 1944 and April, 1945.

Q You also told us that the strength in December, 1944 was between 500,000 and 520,000?

A Yes.

Q Therefore between 60,000 and 80,000 were added between December, 1944 and April, 1945?

A For instance during 1945 there was a total of 25,000 Cossacks added as three divisions were taken over by the SS from the army.

Q Was the strength in December of 1944 between 500,000 and 530,000?

A Yes. I point out this is just a rough estimate.

Q The strength in April, 1945, is 580,000?

A Yes.

Q So that your increase on reinforcements during that period is between 60,000 and 80,000?

A In addition to these 25,000 Cossacks transferred into the SS from

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the army in 1945 were 15,000 reserve troops from the army reserve office, which were handed over to the SS for their disposal and the rest were men that were drafted individually by the reinforcement or reserve office.

Q Can you explain this to me? Your recruitment between December, 1944 and April, 1945 was between 60,000 and 80,000?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q As opposed to that, you have just told us that there was drafted into the Waffen SS between those dates 25,000 Cossacks, 15,000 reserve troops and 125,000 Germans from the army, navy and police. That makes a total of 165,000?

A No, I previously stated in the years before 1944-45 - in that entire time 125,000 men were transferred from the police, the army, the navy and the air force.

Q During the year 1944?

A In the year 1944 it amounted to a total of about 85,000.

Q To be perfectly clear, I took it down that 125,000 were from the army, the navy and police between December, 1944 and Apri, 1945. If there is a question about that now it can be checked with the court reporter.

A No, I did not say that. I stated in the entire year of 1944 and 1945, that is from the beginning of 1944 until the capitulation, a total of 125,000 men were fransferred from the air corps, army, navy and the police.

Q Did the department that you were working with have anything to

H0981-0011

do with the Ergainzungsamt.

A The Ergainzungsamt, or recruitment office of the SS Amt or main office reported to us through the various local recruiting or draft boards the number of new men that were entered that month and we saw to it that these men were then taken care of in schools or various units.

Q All these figures, which you have given to us today, are they figures that you have remembered since April, 1944?

A I remembered most of these figures. I also went over them with experts of my office whom I met in my prison camp at St. Bosteln. They are the figures from the last reports in the SS Haupt Amt. or main office.

Q No more questions.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q How were these 125,000 transferred into the SS? By decree?

A Yes, through orders. I can give some examples here.

Q Who issued the orders?

A These orders came from the army fuehrer or leadership staff or the Commander in Chief of the reinforcement army. Here are a few examples. To bring the 6th Armored SS army up to strength before the Ardennes forrest offensive 25,000 aircorps men were transferred from the air corps. For the formation of the 38th Panzer SS Division, 8,000 young recruits from the year 1928 were transferred to the SS. For the replacement of the 3rd Germanic Corps 5,400 navy men were transferred during

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1944. Previous to that, this 3rd Germanic Army Corps had received from 10,000 to 15,000 air force men for its ranks. The 4th Armored SS Corps received for the replacement of the SS Division under its command 5,000 air force men. For the reinforcement of quartermaster units of the SS, 5,000 police reserve were put at the disposal of the SS. From the summer of 1944 until the capitulation, the army reserve branch put at the disposal of the SS about 40,000 army reserves. From the beginning of 1944 until the end of the war, the Commander in Chief of reserve army put at the disposal of the SS about 180,000 radio and telephone men. During the formation of the 33rd Weapon Grenade Division from the White Lithuanians 17,000 police reserves were put at the disposal of the SS. When general commands of the army were taken over by the SS about 3,000 men were transferred into the SS from the army. During the formation of the 35th SS Police [redacted] Grenadiers from 5,000 to 8,000 polices reserves were put at the disposal of the SS. The transfer of the last mentioned men was not altogether carried out, as that was very shortly before the end of the war. These individual cases, as far as I know, total about 125,000.

BY MR. LANOIRE:

Q Do you know how many SS men were recruited in the western countries

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of France, Holland, Belgium and Norway in your division?

A No, I cannot give information on this question because this was the concern of the SS recruiting office. The Army Operational Staff Center Bureau had nothing to do with this, neither in the Reich or outside of the territory.

Q I suppose you don't know if the Waffen SS was recruited from Prisoner of War camps?

A No, I don't know about that either.

Q Do you know if the Hohenstauffen Division was an SS Division?

A There was a 9th SS Armored Division Hohenstauffen.

Q Was that composed of German troops?

A The troops of this division were made up of German nationals and Germans who lived outside of German borders.

Q No further questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Any further questions of this witness?

DR. PELCKMANN: No further questioning.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is excused.

(TIME: 1145 HOURS.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of WALTER BLUME, taken on 25 June 1946.

Mabel A. Lesser
REPORTER (PP 1-4

Alyce Meehan
REPORTER (PP 5-12

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
COMMISSIONER.

H0981-0014

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

25 June 1946.

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THE S.S.

(TTE COMMISSION CONVENED AT 1110 HOURS.)

WALTER BLUME, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER:

Will the witness stand, raise his right hand and repeat after me:

I Swear by God, the Almighty and Omniscient, that I willspeak the pure truth and will withhold and add nothing.

(The witness repeated the oath).

Q What is your name?

A Walter Blume.

Q You may sit down.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Dr. Pelckmann, will you please state what you want to prove by this witness?

DR. PELKMANN: I called this witness, Blume, concerning the organization and development of the Waffe-SS from 1944 to April 1945 under special consideration of the recruiting system. This witness is to continue the statements by von Brill.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY DR. PEECKMANN:

Q Witness, since when are you a member of the SS?

A Since 1940.

Q And how did that come about?

A I was adjutant with the General Inspector in the Main Office of the Order of Police in the Reich Ministry of the Interior. I was First Lieutenant in the Regular Police and was turned over with the same rank to the SS.

Q And since what time did you belong to the Party?

A Since 1940.

Q You have heard concerning what subjects you will be questioned here.

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Can you tell us for what reason you are capable of giving this information?

A From August 1943 until April 1944 I was 1B in the SS Main Leadership Office. From May 1944 until the capitulation I was 1A in the Organization Branch of the Main Leadership Office of the SS.

DR. PELCKMANN: I think perhaps that the German words should also be used in the English transcript since I am not sure whether or not the judges of the Tribunal will later on know exactly what is meant by these terms. Therefore if the witness could again repeat the offices that he was working in --

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A The strength of the Waffen-SS between December 1944 until the capitulation was as follows: There were, first of all, 11 general commands, of which 2 were so-called foreign units and one a so-called Germanic Unit, with a total strength of 15,000 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. Secondly, there were 18 so-called independent Corps Troops which had a total strength of 10,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. Then there were 40 divisions, of which 14 were so-called foreign units and 6 Germanic units, with a total strength of 430,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. Then there were 7 small foreign groupings of troops and one small Germanic troop with a total strength of 10,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. In addition, fifth, there was a reserve army of the SS, consisting of about 115,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The entire total, therefore, is 580,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and me In this number of 580,000 are contained all the men in all the units of the SS between December 1944 and the end of the war and it also contains all the casualties that resulted within these units from December 1944 until April 1945.

Q In these 580,000 are there also the concentration camp guards and

H0981-0016

concentration camp headquarters troops?

A No, the men from the concentration camp guards and the members of the concentration camp headquarters, are not contained in this number of 580,000.

Q Why are they not included in this number?

A The field units of the SS were, just like the army units, under the direct command of the Army Leadership as far as the Sectors South, West and North are concerned, with the exception that the SS troops, for matters of personnel affairs, clothing and equipment, were under the SS Fuehrungshauptamt or the SS Main Leadership Office. The Reserve Army of the SS was in every instance under the command of the SS-Fuehrungshauptamt (SS Main Leadership Office). The concentration camp guard troops and concentration camp headquarters units did not belong to either the field units of the SS nor to the Reserve Army of the SS. The concentration camp guard units were on the same level as the SS, the Armed-SS, and were under the command in all instances of the Economic Main Administration Office Branch DORA.

COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES: Does that come under the WVHA?

A That is Wirtschaftverwaltungshauptamt or WVH-Amtsgruppe Dora.

Q. Before you stated that the number of Waffen SS was 580,000. If one wanted to consider the strength of the entire Waffen SS one would have to add the casualties since the beginning of the war ?

A. In order to say the total number of men that were in the Waffen SS since the beginning of the war, since its origin, one would have to add the total number of casualties since the beginning of the war until December, 1944, to this number of 580,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and enlisted men.

Q. How large is that number approximately ?

A. The number of casualties was not within my scope of work, however, I would judge this number to be between 300,000 and 350,000.

Q. Within this number of 580,000 in the Waffen SS, how many of the above were so-called foreign and Germanic, how many were composed of Germans from abroad and how amny were Reichs Germans ?

A. The personnel structure of this number of 580,000 is as follows : 160,000 foreign and Germanic; 160,000 from Germans aborad and 260,000 actual Germans.

Q. How many members of the air corps, the navy, the army and of the police that were drafted or later transferred into the SS, in other words how large was the number of persons in these groups that were taken into the SS involuntarily ?

A. In 1944 and 1945, as far as I know, 125,000 Germans were transferred into the SS from the army, the navy, the air corps and the police, that is they were transferred without volunteering for this branch. I want to point out especially in this case, I am talking of actual Germans. I want to poin out as I said speaking of Germans, that between December, 1944 and the end o the war, there was about a total of 260,000 Germans in the SS. These number should give you a very good idea to what extent persons were drafted and di not go into the Waffen SS voluntarily, especially toward the end of the war. I do not know how many Volksdeutsche or Germans abroad were drafted by the reserve office of the SS in that period.

Q. Do you know the number of Germans that were drafted by the recruiting office or the reserve office for the SS ?

A. No, I cannot give you any figures concerning that.

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H0981-0018

Q. Do you know how the men that were in the so-called Einsatzkommand or Einsatzgruppen were drafted into these units ?

A. No, I do not know. I heard of these Einsatzgruppen for the first time from the statements of Ohlendorf. I only also heard that members of the Waffen SS were supposed to have participated in these Einsatzgruppen. I want to state in that connection that the field units had to report to me monthly on their technical organization, also on the strength of their materials of equipment and the number of men. These Einsatzgruppen, mentioned by Ohlendorf, did not report to the SS Fuehrungshauptamt and thefefore I did not know of their existance.

Q. No further questions.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL GRIFFITH JONES:

Q. I want to get the make-up of the 580,000 men clearly. A I right in thinkin that includes the strength of the Waffen SS at December, 1944 and reinforcements from December, 1944 until April, 1945 ?

A. Yes- that is correct.

Q. And it includes any of those men who happened to become casualties during that time ?

A. Yes- that is correct.

Q. Can you tell me what the strength was in December 1944. I want the two figures if you can give them, the strength in December, 1944 and the reinforcements between December, 1944 and April, 1945.

A. The number of men in the SS at the time around December was between 500,000 and 525,000 officers, non-commissioned officers and men. I want to point out that this is just an estimate.

Q. So that the recruits from December, 1944 until April 1945 will be 60,000 to 80,000, is that correct ?

A. I cannot give you the exact figures as to how many men entered the SS after this date.

COLONEL JONES: I think it would be much easier if we would have the interpreter give sentence by sentence instead of waiting and letting the witness go on to great length.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The interpretor instruct the witness to that effect.

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BY COLONELJONES:

A I want to point out that after December, 1944 it was extremely hard to find out the number of men in the SS and get the exact report. For instance, after April, 1945 due to the communication difficulties, it was impossible to receive exact strength reports from the units and I was forced to go back to the last strength report that I had received.

Q You did tell us that the total in April of 1945 was 580,000.

A Yes, that is correct, but I do want to point out that in this number, 580,000 also were the casualties between December, 1944 and April, 1945.

Q You also told us that the strength in December, 1944 was between 500,000 and 520,000?

A Yes.

Q Therefore between 60,000 and 80,000 were added between December, 1944 and April, 1945?

A For instance during 1945 there was a total of 25,000 Cossacks added as three divisions were taken over by the SS from the army.

Q Was the strength in December of 1944 between 500,000 and 530,000?

A Yes. I point out this is just a rough estimate.

Q The strength in April, 1945, is 580,000?

A Yes.

Q So that your increase on reinforcements during that period is between 60,000 and 80,000?

A In addition to these 25,000 Cossacks transferred into the SS from the army in 1945 were 15,000 reserve troops from the army reserve office, which were handed over to the SS for their disposal and the rest were men that were drafted individually by the reinforcement or reserve office.

Q Can you explain this to me? Your recruitment between December, 1944 and April, 1945 was between 60,000 and 80,000?

A Yes, that is correct.

Q As opposed to that, you have just told us that there was drafted into the Waffen SS between those dates 25,000 Cossacks, 15,000 reserve troops and 125,000 Germans from the army, navy and police. That makes a

H0981 - 0020

a total of 165,000?

A No, I previously stated in the years before 1944-45 - in that entire time 125,000 men were transferred from the police, the army, the navy and the air force.

Q During the year 1944?

A In the year1944 it amounted to a total of about 85,000.

Q To be perfectly clear, I took it down that 125,000 were from the army, the navy and police between December, 1944 and April, 1945. If there is a question about that now it can be checked with the court reporter.

A No, I did not say that. I stated in the entire year of 1944 and 1945, that is from the beginning of 1944 until the capitulation, a total of 125,000 men were transferred from the air corps, army, navy and the police.

Q Did the department that you were working with have anything to do with the Ergainzungsamt.

A The Ergainzungsamt, or recruitment office of the SS Amt or main office reported to us through the various local recruiting or draft boards the number of new men that were entered that month and we saw to it that these men were then taken care of in schools or various units.

Q All these figures, which you have given to us today, are they figures that you have remembered since April, 1944?

A I remembered most of these figures. I also went over them with experts of my office whom I met in my prison camp at St. Bostein. They are the figures from the last reports in the SS Haupt Amt or main office.

Q No more questions.

BY CAPTAIN TUBRIDY:

Q How were these 125,000 transferred into the SS? By decree?

A Yes, through orders. I can give some examples here.

Q Who issued the orders?

A These orders came from the army fuehrer or leadership staff or the Commander in Chief of the reinforcement army. Here are a few examples. To bring the 6th Armored SS army up to strength before the Ardennes Forest offensive 25,000 aircorps men were transferred from the air corps. For the

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formation of the 38th Panzer SS Division, 8,000 young recruits from the year 1928 were transferred to the SS. For the replacement of the 3rd Germanic Corps 5,400 navy men were transferred during 1944. Previous to that, this 3rd Germanic Army Corps had received from 10,000 to 15,000 air force men for its ranks. The 4th Armored SS Corps received for the replacement of the SS Division under its command 5,000 air force men. For the reinforcement of quartermaster units of the SS, 5,000 police reserve were put at the disposal of the SS. From the summer of 1944 until the capitulation, the army reserve branch put at the disposal of the SS about 40,000 army reserves. From the beginning of 1944 until the end of the war, the Commander in Chief of reserve army put at the disposal of the SS about 180,000 radio and telephone men. During the formation of the 33rd Weapon Grenade Division from the White Lithuanians 17,000 police reserves were put at the disposal of the SS. When general commands of the army were taken over by the SS about 3,000 men were transferred into the SS from the army. During the formation of the 35th SS Police Grenadiers from 5,000 to 8,000 police reserves were put at the disposal of the SS. The transfer of the last mentioned men was not altogether carried out, as that was very shortly before the end of the war. These individual cases, as far as I know, total about 125,000.

BY MR. LANOIRE:

Q Do you know how many SS men were recruited in the western countries of France, Holland, Belgium and Norway in your division?

A No, I cannot give information on this question because this was the concern of the SS recruiting office. The Army Operational Staff Center Bureau had nothing to do with this, neither in the Reich or outside of the territory.

Q I suppose you don't know if the Waffen SS was recruited from Prisoner of War camps?

A No, I don't know about that either.

Q Do you know if the Hohenstauffen Division was an SS Division?

A There was a 9th SS Armored Division Hohenstauffen.

Q Was that composed of German troops?

A The troops of this division were made up of German nationals and

H0981-0022

Germans who lived outside of German borders.

Q No further questions.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: Any further questions of this witness?

DR. PELCKMANN: No further questioning.

CAPTAIN TUBRIDY: The witness is excused.

(TIME: 1145 HOURS.)

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of WALTER BLUME, taken on 25 June 1946.

Mabel A Lesser
Reporter

Alice Meehan
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

Joseph F. Tubridy
Commissioner.